

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 and 36-45 are pending in the Application. Claims 1-33 and 36-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Claims 43-45 are allowed.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the reasons stated in the response with a mailing date of May 24, 2004. However, merely to advance prosecution, Applicants cancel claims 1-33 and 36-42 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation application to capture the subject matter of originally filed claims 1-33 and 36-42.

Applicants added claims 46-58, corresponding to the limitations in claims 2-14, to depend from allowable claim 43. Applicants have further added claims 59-71, corresponding to the limitations in claims 2-14, to depend from allowable claim 44. Applicants have further added claims 72-84, corresponding to the limitations in claims 2-14, to depend from allowable claim 45. Therefore, claims 43-84 are allowable. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to issue a notice of allowance allowing claims 43-84.

CONCLUSION

As a result of the foregoing, it is asserted by Applicants that claims 43-84 in the Application are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request an allowance of such claims. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call Applicants' attorney at the below listed number if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

WINSTEAD SECHREST & MINICK P.C.

Attorneys for Applicants

By: 

Kelly K. Kordzik
Reg. No. 36,571
Robert A. Voigt, Jr.
Reg. No. 47,159

P.O. Box 50784
Dallas, Texas 75201
(512) 370-2832

Austin_1 267498v.1